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REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 12-22, 25-35, 38 and 39 are pending in this application. All of the pending claims were rejected based on Albert. Claims 1, 14 and 27 are currently amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The presently claimed invention distinguishes Albert because one field of the data packet can be processed in parallel with multiple filter operations in response to a single instruction. The Office suggests that this feature is taught by Albert in steps (1310, 1312, 1314, 1316 and 1318) of Figure 13. It is suggested that the Office has not fully appreciated the significance of the language "one field of the data packet can be processed in parallel." Because different filter operations can be triggered based on one field, a particular source address could prompt, for example, generation of two copies of the packet and changing the destination addresses of those two packets to different DAs. In order for Figure 13 of Albert to teach the recited limitation, step (1304) would have to trigger multiple parallel paths of filter operations. However, Albert does not show or describe such parallel paths. Rather, Albert shows only one path of actions based on a single filter operation (steps 1310-1320).

Claims 1, 14 and 27 have been amended to emphasize the distinguishing limitations discussed above. For example, claim 1 now recites "in response to the single instruction, retrieving a filter result based on the received instruction, the filter result being indicative of a plurality of filter operations to be performed on the packet, each filter operation associated with a different action; and performing at least two of a plurality of filter operations on the same data field in the data packet in accordance with the retrieved filter result, whereby one field of the data packet can be processed in parallel with multiple filter operations." (emphasis added). Claims 14 and 27 recite similar language, support for which is in the Specification at pp. 14-16 in the section titled "Filter Operation on Data Packets." Claims 2-9, 12-

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titled "Filter Operation on Data Packets." Claims 2-9, 12-13, 15-22, 25-26, 28-35, 38 and 39 are dependent claims which further distinguish the inventions, and which are allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-9, 12-22, 25-35, 38 and 39 based on Albert is therefore requested.

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Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date


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